

Serial No. : 10/710,442  
Applicant : Harry T. Edwards  
Page : 2

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

Please amend claim 28.

1. (Previously presented) A baggage screening system, comprising:

a plurality of screening subsystems, each comprising an automated bag screen device and a feed conveyor for feeding bags to said screen device;

a supply conveyor for supplying bags to said screening subsystems, said supply conveyor supplying bags only to a screening subsystem that has no more than a particular number of unscreened bags that are at that screening subsystem;

a cleared bag conveyor and an uncleared bag conveyor; and

a sortation conveyor network downstream of said screening subsystem to selectively divert bags to said cleared bag conveyor or said uncleared bag conveyor;

wherein said sortation conveyor network comprises a buffer downstream of each said bag screen device and a pair of diverters associated with each said buffer, said buffer buffering bags for a secondary bag screening function, one of said diverters upstream of the associated said buffer being adapted to divert a bag to either said cleared bag conveyor or said buffer, another of said diverters downstream of the associated said buffer being adapted to divert a bag to either said cleared bag conveyor or said uncleared bag conveyor, wherein bags cleared by either said bag screen device or said secondary screening function can be diverted to said cleared bag conveyor.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said supply conveyor includes a recirculation line for recirculating bags to an upstream portion of said supply conveyor that have not been supplied to a screening subsystem.

Serial No. : 10/710,442  
Applicant : Harry T. Edwards  
Page : 3

3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein bags are transported through said screen device at a first speed and said supply conveyor operates at a second speed that is greater than said first speed and wherein said feed conveyor includes a deceleration conveyor.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein said deceleration conveyor receives a bag at said second speed and decelerates said bag to said first speed.

5. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 including an input diverter at each of said screening subsystems for selectively diverting a bag to that screening subsystem, said input diverter controlling orientation of a bag being diverted.

6. (Previously presented) The system of claim 5 wherein said input diverter is a powered-face diverter.

7. - 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said secondary bag screening function uses images of bags captured by said screen device.

12. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein bags are not queued at said feed conveyor.

13. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein bags travel substantially only at non-zero speeds through said supply conveyor and said feed conveyor.

14. (Previously presented) A screening module for a baggage screening system having an automated bag screen device, a supply conveyor for supplying bags to said screening module from a supply conveyor, said screening module comprising:

a feed conveyor for feeding bags to the screen device and a sortation conveyor network downstream of said screen device;

Serial No. : 10/710,442  
Applicant : Harry T. Edwards  
Page : 4

a cleared bag conveyor and an uncleared bag conveyor;  
said feed conveyor comprising a deceleration conveyor for decreasing speeds of individual bags being supplied to said bag screen device; and  
said sortation conveyor network sorting bags as a function of the screening of the bags wherein said sortation conveyor network selectively diverts bags to said cleared bag conveyor or said uncleared bag conveyor;  
wherein said sortation conveyor network comprises a buffer downstream of the bag screen device and a pair of diverters associated with said buffer, said buffer buffering bags for a secondary bag screening function, one of said diverters upstream of the associated said buffer being adapted to divert a bag to either said cleared bag conveyor or said buffer, another of said diverters downstream of the associated said buffer being adapted to divert a bag to either said cleared bag conveyor or said uncleared bag conveyor, wherein bags cleared by either the bag screen device or said secondary screening function can be diverted to said cleared bag conveyor.

15. – 17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) The module of claim 14 wherein said secondary bag screening function uses images of bags captured by said screen device.

19. (Original) The module of claim 14 wherein bags are not queued at said feed conveyor.

20. (Original) The module of claim 14 wherein bags travel substantially only at non-zero speeds through said feed conveyor.

21. (Original) The module of claim 14 wherein said screen device is mounted substantially above floor level.

22. (Previously presented) A method of screening bags, comprising:  
providing a plurality of automated bag screen devices and a conveyor system;

Serial No. : 10/710,442  
Applicant : Harry T. Edwards  
Page : 5

supplying bags individually to said screen devices with said conveyor system;  
providing a cleared bag conveyor and an uncleared bag conveyor;  
providing a sortation conveyor network downstream of said screen devices to selectively divert bags to said cleared bag conveyor or said uncleared bag conveyor;  
wherein said sortation conveyor network comprises a buffer downstream of each said screen device and a pair of diverters associated with each said buffer;  
buffering bags for a secondary bag screening function with said buffer;  
diverting a bag to either said cleared bag conveyor or said buffer with one of said diverters upstream of the associated said buffer; and  
diverting a bag to either said cleared bag conveyor or said uncleared bag conveyor with another of said diverters downstream of the associated said buffer;  
wherein bags cleared by either said bag screen device or said secondary screening function can be diverted to said cleared bag conveyor.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 including supplying bags only to screening devices that have at least partially screened each of the bags that have been supplied to that screening device.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein said conveyor system includes feed conveyors, each for feeding bags to one of said screen devices and a supply conveyor for supplying bags to said feed conveyors.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24 including recirculating bags to an upstream portion of said supply conveyor that have not been supplied to a feed conveyor.

26. (Original) The method of claim 24 including transporting bags through said screen device at a first speed and at said supply conveyor at a second speed that is greater than said first speed, including providing a deceleration conveyor at said feed conveyor.

Serial No. : 10/710,442  
Applicant : Harry T. Edwards  
Page : 6

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 including receiving a bag with said deceleration conveyor at said second speed and decelerating said bag to said first speed.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~24~~22 including providing an input diverter for each of said screen devices and selectively diverting a bag to a screen device with the corresponding input diverter including controlling orientation of a bag being diverted.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein said diverter is a powered-face diverter.

30. – 33. (Cancelled)

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein said secondary bag screening function uses images of bags captured by said screen device.

35. (Original) The method of claim 24 including not queuing bags at said feed conveyor.